

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment is responsive to the non-final Office Action mailed November 12, 2008 in the above-identified application.

Claims 7 and 9 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Further, new claim 16 is added so as more fully to claim patentable aspects of applicant's disclosure. Claim 16 depends from claim 1 and is therefore patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons.

Therefore, claims 1-6, 8 and 10-16 are the claims currently pending in the present application.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11 and 13 are amended to clarify features recited thereby. These amendments, as well as new claim 16, are fully supported by applicant's disclosure, see, for example, Specification, page 5, line 6 – page 6, line 2; Fig. 2 with respect to the amendments to claim 1 and to new claim 16.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Office Action states that claim 9 is allowable if rewritten as an independent claim.

Further, applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and for acknowledging that certified copies of the priority documents have been received from the International Bureau. Moreover, applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging review and consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 12, 2007.

Rejection of Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite on the ground that the recitation in claim 1 "space between them" is unclear. Claim 1 is amended. Claims 2-6, 8 and 10-15 depend from claim 1 and they were rejected only because of their dependence therefrom. Claims 7 and 9 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and the rejection is therefore moot with respect to these claims.

Rejection of Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Vigander, U.S. Patent No. 4,188,157. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 as amended includes the recitations of claim 9 and claim 7 (claim 9 depended from claim 7 prior to being canceled). The Office Action stated that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten as an independent claim.

Claims 2-4, 6, 8 and 10-15 depend from claim 1, and are therefore patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons. Claim 7 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and the rejection is therefore moot with respect to this claim.

Rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Vigander in view of Cook, U.S. Patent No. 4,402,632. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

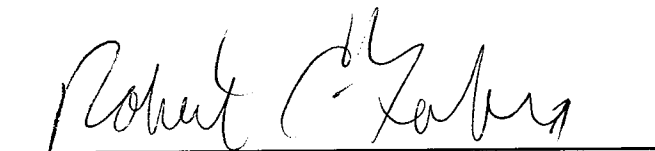
Cook does not cure the deficiencies of Vigander as they relate to claim 1, as amended, and the Office Action acknowledges that the recitations of claim 9, now canceled, are allowable over Vigander and Cook. Since claim 5 depends from claim 1, it is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
THROUGH THE PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING
SYSTEM ON **February 3, 2009**.

RCF:GB:ns

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Faber", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert C. Faber
Registration No.: 24,322
OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-8403
Telephone: (212) 382-0700